

Regional Community, Agency, and School Alliance (RCASA) Minutes- March 20, 2019

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Presentations:

Diane Cruz
Independent Living Center
3108 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214
716-836-0822 ext 140

Diane spoke about services which are offered to individuals with disabilities at Independent Living Center. They have locations in Niagara Falls, Ohio (Niagara Falls) which is staffed and governed by Native Americans, and Batavia. Services offered:

- Provide assistance with SSI. They can assist with SSI reevaluations at 18 years old.
- Help develop Plans to Achieve Self Support (PASS) for recipients of public assistance who utilize SSI/SSDI.
- Peer Connection- Mental health advocacy which is peer-driven.
- Transportation for OPWDD individuals. 12 rides or 6 round trips per month. There is a fee for non- OPWDD individuals.
- CD Pass- Personal care aide (in-home). Individuals would need to be self-directing.
- Health Homes available for ages 18 and above.
- Staff can work with school personnel to assist individuals.

Transition Timeline presented by:

Liz Loughran-Amorese
Erie 1 RSE-TASC
eloughran-amorese@e1b.org

Julia Duerr
Erie 1 RSE-TASC
Jduerr@e1b.org

Tonia Weichmann
Parent Network- (716) 332-4163
tlw@parentnetworkwny.org

Liz, Julia, and Tonia presented a Transition Timeline (please see attached) for students with disabilities, which they have been working on. This timeline would follow students from age 12 to 21. Teachers would be able to document and follow a student's progress regarding transition.

RCASA group participants broke into two groups, one for agencies and another for school districts to discuss some strengths and weaknesses of this timeline. One main suggestion between both groups was to have the timeline on google drive so it can be easily accessed by staff. Another suggestion was to give room for comments and activities to be added. Both groups thought this could be a helpful tool to track transition activities.

A transition binder was also shared along with this group. The transition binder was sectioned off to match the checklist. Liz mentioned that this would be utilized as an on-line resource.

Announcements/sharing of information:

Niagara County Work Source One: Marilyn Patterson (716-278-1695) spoke about the Niagara County Summer Youth Employment for ages 12-21. This is a TANF led program, participants must be low income. Applications are due by May 10, 2019.

Statler Center: Karla Rogers Manzella (716-882-1025) spoke about openings available in their training hospitality program at the Statler Center. This program is for individuals that are under employed. Individuals must have high school diploma/GED. Also, participants must be able to type 20 words per minute.

Parent Network- Tonia Weichmann, Transition Coordinator (716-332-4163) spoke about Guide and Connect on their website. This gives information about OPWDD services.

Prime Care- Libby Bentley, Student and Family Education Specialist (585-491-5836) she spoke about her role at Prime Care. She provides training for staff and parents. She can assist with linkage to OPWDD.

Youth Power- Effective 3/25/19, Carly DelVecchio will be transitioning into the role of Central Regional Youth Partner. Events for Youth Power!- Peer Leaders' Support and Development (PLSD) Meeting for Youth Peer Advocates will be held 3/27/19, at 3:00 PM. Participants can attend in person at the Mental Health Association of Rochester/Monroe County or virtually via GoToMeeting.

The next Youth Peer Advocate Leaders' (YPAL) Meeting for supervisors of Youth Peer Advocates will be held 4/29/19 at 11:00 AM.

YOUTH POWER! will be recruiting Western Regional Youth Ambassadors. If interested- Call/Text: (585) 314-2452.

University of YOUTH POWER! Will be held at The College of Saint Rose in Albany on June 22-25, 2019. Any questions, contact Carly at: cdelvecchio@YOUTHPOWERNY.org.

Equistar- Equistar Therapeutic Riding is looking for volunteers. Must be 14 or older. Contact Christina Wright at CKW38@cornel.edu or 716-433-8839.

Next RCASA meeting will be May 15, 2019